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which he considers the most interesting part of his life. Then follow years of sojourn in Europe, and in 1915 a trip across the deserts of Arizona. Observations on peoples and customs, descriptions of countries visited, and anecdotes incident to his journeys maintain one's interest in the somewhat disconnected narrative of Professor Pumpelly's eventful life.

JOSEPH P. IDDINGS.

Reconstruction in Louisiana after 1868. By ELLA LONN, Ph.D., Assistant Professor in Grinnell College. (New York and London: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1918. Pp. vi, 538. \$3.00.)

To undertake to write a fair and connected narrative of events so recent and so obscured by partizan bitterness as those of the Reconstruction era in Louisiana, requires courage and a patient coolness of judgment that one rarely finds. Miss Lonn's *Reconstruction in Louisiana*, covering the period from 1868 to the election of Hayes and the establishment of Nicholls's authority, is as good as one could expect, in regard to completeness of detail, general accuracy, and fairness. There are, however, certain shortcomings to which attention must be directed.

In the mere matter of printing, there are some errors: on page 37, "leaving movers", for leading (Louisiana wished they had been leaving); page 29, "Bernard", for St. Bernard; page 132, "four hundred thousand", for four thousand; page 157, note 1, "Houme"; page 299, note 1, "Jahhawker"; page 493, "F. F. Nicholls", for F. T.; page 514, "Darrell", for Durrell.

In a work of such detail, however, these errors are negligible; indeed, Miss Lonn has done a remarkable piece of work in regard to the general accuracy of her statements, all of which are supported by the best authority available. Sometimes, it is true, she makes a slip that is not pleasant: thus (p. 161) she describes D. B. Penn, candidate for lieutenant-governor with McEnery, as "colored, Warmoth party", though on page 270 and elsewhere in connection with the uprising of September 14 in New Orleans she correctly recognizes him as a Confederate soldier connected with some of the most prominent families of the state and enjoying the confidence of his people.

The most serious defects of this painstaking work, however, are rather in matters of style and general handling of the material. In the space at my disposal I can do no more than indicate, in the most general way, that the narrative is, at times, conspicuously lacking in that sort of orderly continuity which makes for clearness and for interest. At times, also, the writer composes sentences which, like this on page 68, seem to state the exact reverse of what is meant: "he laid the blame for the excesses on lobbyists, nor did he scruple to withhold names". Most frequently there is a failure to present the complex details in such a way as to make the situation clear; for example, in summarizing the

conditions existing at the beginning of 1869 (p. 9 *et seq.*), insufficient attention is paid to the highly important matter of the relation of Louisiana politics to the "national game" being played by the Congressional leaders. It will not, in my judgment, be possible to understand what went on in Louisiana without a frank, if concise, statement of national conditions. Similarly, in the handling of such a matter as the Colfax massacre, though Miss Lonn is perfectly unprejudiced, her narrative is not presented with that sort of clearness and vigor that should be perfectly consistent with accuracy and fairness. She is too timid about expressing opinions; it is not enough to present the facts, to quote freely the conflicting partizan opinions of the time (as on pp. 260-267); the function of the historian should be to digest and interpret where it is needful.

The volume will be welcome to the student, and should find a place in every library dealing with American history. But its value to the student would be very much greater if the index were more complete and better classified.

PIERCE BUTLER.

The Autobiography of a Pennsylvanian. By SAMUEL WHITAKER PENNYPACKER, Governor of Pennsylvania, 1903-1907. (Philadelphia: John C. Winston Company. 1918. Pp. 564. \$3.00.)

PROBABLY no state in the Union has ever had a governor with a mind so original as that of Samuel W. Pennypacker of Pennsylvania. With purposes which on the whole were fine, ideas on the most various subjects which were suggestive, turns of phrase which were unexpected and frequently bizarre, he was a man above others to be thanked for having bequeathed us an account of his life. Without question no book is quite like this one. The outlook at times is not from any great eminence. The tower on which the writer stood was not of the highest, but from where he did stand he saw with penetrating eye and has now given others his impressions with courage and fidelity.

As an industrious antiquary and annalist on Pennsylvania topics, well known, wherever he was known at all, for his loyalty to the history and the traditions of the state, the president for many years of the good and useful Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Governor Pennypacker as a matter of course has brought into his autobiography much that bears upon this branch of learning. He gained impressions and cherished recollections of a large number of men, many of no repute outside of their own community, though not a few were of national stature. The writer of American history for the period will find it profitable, therefore, to refer to the work; the writer of local history must find it indispensable to do so.

The criticism of men still living and of events and policies still lying within the range of daily conflict is rather perilous. That the author is deceased and is in a way protected by the *de mortuis nil nisi bonum*,